



**Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Southern District of Texas**

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TWO INVOLVED IN STASH HOUSE SHOOTOUT CONVICTED

HOUSTON, TX – Jose Monsivais-Muniz, 25, shot while guarding a group of illegal aliens by an alleged rival group of smugglers, and Jesus Gomez-Ibarra, 22, both of Mexico, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to harboring illegal aliens, United States Attorney Don DeGabrielle announced today.

Monsivais-Muniz pleaded guilty today to the conspiracy charge and is scheduled to be sentenced on September 26, 2006. Gomez-Ibarra pleaded guilty on May 30, 2006, to conspiracy to harbor illegal aliens and three counts of harboring illegal aliens, and will be sentenced on September 20, 2006. Both men face a maximum sentence of ten years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 for the conspiracy conviction. Gomez-Ibarra faces a maximum of five years in prison for each of the three harboring illegal aliens convictions. Both men, who are illegally present in the United States, also face possible deportation after they have completed any prison term imposed.

During their respective hearings before United States District Judge Lee H. Rosenthal, the defendants conceded that the government could prove that on the morning of March 14, 2006, Houston Police Department (HPD) officers responded to reports of a shooting at 9011 Sandpiper Street in Houston, Texas. Callers claimed to have heard several shots coming from the residence and seeing a number of men running away from the residence.

Upon arriving at the scene, HPD officers saw two men, later identified as Monsivais-Muniz and Gomez-Ibarra, standing in front of a nearby residence and began walking away once they saw officers. Officers approached Jose Monsivais-Muniz, who appeared to be bleeding, to ask what had happened. Monsivais-Muniz had been shot several times and was bleeding heavily from his right side and buttocks area. Monsivais claimed he had been car jacked. Monsivais-Muniz was transported to an area hospital for treatment and released several days later. Gomez-Ibarra was detained pending the investigation.

Meanwhile, at the 9011 Sandpiper location, officers noticed a large amount of blood and bullet holes in the front door. Upon entering the residence, officers found approximately 11 illegal aliens hiding inside. Another 14 other illegal aliens were found in various locations nearby. The Houston office of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was contacted and responded to the scene.

Gomez-Ibarra and Monsivais-Muniz each confessed to guarding the illegal aliens being hidden at the 9011 Sandpiper and told investigating officers that men had entered the residence at gun point that morning and took some of the aliens held there. Most of the aliens interviewed by ICE agents claimed to have arrived at the house the night before, and had their shoes taken by the smugglers to prevent them from leaving the residence. According to the illegal aliens, they provided the guards with telephone numbers of a contact to pay for their release.

The indictment is the result of an investigation conducted by special agents of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jay Hileman.

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